



MARAD Update



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Maritime Administrator and Deputy Maritime Administrator Witness Firsthand Booming Business on Great Lakes

Highlights Growth of Great Lakes Shipping and Its Role in Moving the American Economy

"A rapidly growing shipping business on the Great Lakes could spell even better news for America's growing economy," Maritime Administrator Captain William G. Schubert said during recent visits to Great Lakes ports Cleveland, Toledo, and Erie. During October, he went to see how the ports and ships flying the U.S. flag are handling business from increased shipments of various commodities moving in and out of the Great Lakes region.

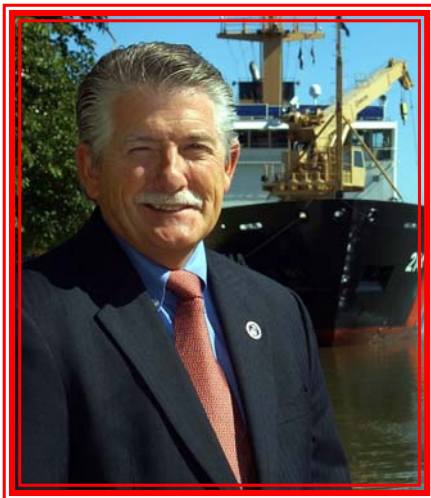
According to the Lake Carriers Association, approximately 5.2 million tons of limestone were shipped from U.S. ports in August, up almost one million tons from 2003. Additionally, iron ore shipments on the Great Lakes remained strong with movement of 18 million tons for the year, up 19 percent from last year's totals.

"Business is booming on the Great Lakes, and the products moving on U.S.-flag vessels are helping to move the American economy forward," said Deputy Maritime Administrator John Jamian who visited the Ports of Milwaukee and Green Bay. "Road builders need more limestone and steel mills need more iron ore. The commodities traveling on Great Lakes ships are vital if we are to meet the increased

demands of our manufacturing industry. This is good news for the Great Lakes and great news for America's strengthening economy."

During their tours, both Captain Schubert and Mr. Jamian cited the importance of the Department of Transportation's SEA 21 initiative, which would provide the resources to help local ports meet their growing infrastructure needs and better handle increased business. "We are committed to investing in the future of our ports to ensure the seamless flow of commerce so that we may continue to compete in the global market," said Schubert. SEA 21 will focus on leveraging funds from federal, state, and local governments, as well as the private sector to address the capital needs of the Marine Transportation System.

Additionally, the Maritime Administrator and Deputy Maritime Administrator discussed the importance of the Short Sea Shipping initiative, which will move more heavy-duty traffic off the road and onto ships. "It makes good sense to make better use of our seaways and waterways as domestic transportation solutions," Deputy Administrator Jamian said.



Maritime Administrator Schubert at the Port of Toledo

Photo Courtesy of The Toledo Blade



Aboard the Ferry Lake Express in the Port of Milwaukee

Left to Right: Floyd Miras, Senior Representative, Great Lakes Region, MARAD; Eric Reinelt, Acting Port Director, Port of Milwaukee; Mark Crutcher, Captain, Ferry Lake Express; John Jamian, Deputy Maritime Administrator

Photo by Wes Irvin
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